# SENTINEL

Prehistoric Men, Sir William Dawson, L.L.D., F.R.S., in the "Sunday at Home."

The term "prehistoric" was first used by my late friend Sir Daniel Wilson in his "Prehistoric Annals of Scotland,"and was intended "to express the whole period disclosed to us by archæological evidences, as distinguished from what is known to us by written records." In a later work," Prehistoric Man," he explains that "man may be assumed to be prehistoric whenever his chroniclings of himself are undesigned and his history is wholly recoverable by induction. The term has thus "no absolute chronological significance," but may refer to very different times in different localities. There are modern as well as ancient prehis- of a block of wood has been pretoric races. Those of whom we have no other remains than their dress, the form and the face of the bones or their works of art, or their | men who lived in that time, 2000 kitchen refuse are prehistoric, while those which have left written | with a cord about the waist, a rude records of themselves are historic. sword suspended from the cord Britain are prehistoric until the time of Julius Cæsar, who first and simple, just as we would exgave them a distinct historical ex- pect to see at this time Later on istence. The people of America, there are the portraits of the Hyk-Mayas, of Yucatan, are prehistoric until the time of Christopher Col- | are in great contrast to the statues umbus, and those of the Polynesian and Australian islands until the vovages of Cook and his contemporaries. There are people in interior Africa who are even yet passing from the prehistoric to the historic stage.

On the other hand, we find the nations of Western Asia and American Indians Still later there around the head of the Mediterra- appears another set of portraits nean possessing historic records which extend to three thousand race, and yet one which was allied years before the Christian era, or perhaps farther; and the Hebrew and Chaldean histories take us back to an antediluvian age, covering at least two thousand years tarther back, and reaching to the origin of man. It is no doubt the habit of many with many modern historians tacitly to ignore these oldest histories as legendary or mythic; but this seems scarcely the royal air. Later on we find as justifiable in the present state of knowledge. We can trace several lines of testimony, apparently independent, back to this hoar antiquity, and can reasonably assign to them no other origin than a foundation in fact.

We confine ourselves to the actual remains of men who had to tell us their own story or that | trast to the warrior kings such as of their fellows, but have merely ist in many parts of Western Europe, more especially in France, Belgium, Germany and Northern Italy, as well as in Britain; and have there been studied under the most favorable circumstances, while the osseous relics and works of art which have been disinterred are collected in great museums, like that in the old palace of St. Germain, near Paris, and the Royal Museum, at Brussels.

Most archæologists divide the prehistoric stone age, that is the early Anthropic Period, as distinguished from the geological periods before the appearance of man, into two leading portions, the Palæolithic,or that of chipped stone implements and weapons, and the Neolithic, or that of polished stone. The distinction is, in point of fact, good, but terms denoting it are objectionable, as referring to accidents of locality and convenience rather than to chronological periods. The question of chipped or polished stone is often that of available material, and we know that for certain purposes the roughest chipped stones have been used in very recent times, by peo les well acquainted with the manufacture of polished or otherwise highly perfected implements and weap-

The limestone cliffs on the banks of the Vezere are often hollowed into caves or undercut by the weather and the waters so as to form rock shelters, which a little addition of wattle or brush in front would make into tolerable habitations. These caves and shelters seem to have been a tavorable abode of the primitive people (Palæocosmic men), and to have been somewhat populous; and this for a long time, reaching through several subordinate stages. These people seem all to have been hunters and fishermen, and so far as indicated by the skeletons found, of large stature, and with long heads | bearing date 1540. The man tried and well developed brain. They to read it, but threw up the atprobably went naked in summer, but must have worn clothing of the volume was relegated to the skins in winter, using apparently cupboard. A friend of his hapa kind of shirt with sleeves, and leggings of dressed skin, orna- to the British museum authorities, mented in part with rough embroidery or coloring, and with perforated shells and pendants of bone is allowed to expend without a sewn on in conspicuous places. they were also artists of some skill, and more especially were in the habit of ornamenting their "pogamogons" or skull-crackers with figures of animals, and of carving than allow the volume to slip such figures on handles of piercers and other instruments, and on siroothed plates of bone or ivory. It is these carvings and tracings priceless. on bone and ivory that constitute their best claim to intentional records, and we may notice a few of them in this connection as giving their only historical testimony concerning themselves. The simplest, though perhaps not the least significant, of their works of art are mere cuts, notches or dots, incised on bone, in rows, sometimes divided into groups or distinct series. These have been supposed to be tallies intended to preserve a reckoning of objects of value, as for example of animals taken in the chase, or of skins for trade or barter, or perhaps to keep account of time. Similar records have existed in less ancient times, as for instance the knotted cord of the Peruvians or the wampum strings and notched sticks of the

nally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system.

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marked bones and sticks used by the Haida Indians of Western America in playing certain games. \* \* From an artistic point of view, the most interesting productions of the primitive artists of Southern France were their representations of animals, which show much accurate observation and manual dexterity, as well as imagination and adaptation in the atti tudes of the animals.

PORTRAIT STATUES IN EGYPT AND

AMERICA.—It is a sirgular fact, says the American Antiquarian that from the earliest time there were portraits which accurately represent the forms and faces of individuals. Some of them were kings, others noblemen and a few private persons, An unknown man of the fourth dynasty wrought out served. From this we learn the B. C. The dress was a simple tunic Viewed in this way, the people of and a knotted staff is held in the left hand. All of it is very plain with perhaps the exception of the sos kings. These have been described by Dr. A. H. Savce. They just mentioned. They represent ong, lank, lean faces, just such aces as we would expect to see in the Turanian or Mongolian races. with a long lock of hair falling on the shoulder, resembling the pigtail of the Chinese, but more resembling the scalp locks of the They seem to belong to a superior or akin to the first race that reigned during the first tour dynasties, who were the pyramid builders but not the builders of the temples. The portraits of the Pharaohs are also given in most b oks on Egyptology. Among them the most interesting was that of Rameses II. These were tall and stately kings, but they "also show something of great a change in the portraits as we do in costumes and in the art and agriculture of Egypt. The faces now resemble the Babylonian and Assyrian kings, as they have heavy beards and full faces, and wear crowns or turbans. The hair falls in heavy tolds below the crown. They seem to be well ted and are neither the means nor the intention | very complacent, and are in con-Rameses and others. The age of Extra Fine Lager BREWERY left the relics of themselves and Ptolemy brought i more luxury their possessions to inform us of and ease, which are exhibited in their existence and actions. Re- the portraits as much as in the mains of such unstoried men ex- surroundings of the kings. A'll the way through the his ory of Egypt there was a line of nobility notwithstanding the changes and revolutions which occurred. There was evidently a progress in civilization, and this progress had much effect upon individuals, as upon the entire race, and marked its lines in their faces and forms as much as it did in their dress and equipage. It is very interesting to trace this progress and study the history of Egypt and the East in the light of the portraits which have been preserved. What shall we say about the early American history, that which preceded the advent of the white men and the date of the discovery? Can we learn anything

> from the portraits which had been preserved in the land? We have

n the preceding numbers spoken

of the portrait columns at Uxmal

Palenque, in Central America, and

have maintained that they were

the portraits of kings and queens.

Some have thought differently, for

they have held that they represent

the divinities and culture, heroes

and mere imaginary figures. A

few, such as M. Le Plongeon, have

resembled Egyptian faces, and

have imagined from this tact and

others a connection between

gypt and America in prehistoric

times. A close study of the por-

trait columns will reveal the error,

or there is no resemblance what-

ever. There is, however, a lesson

to be learned. These portraits are

in great contrast to the pictures of

the North American Indians, of

which Blackhawk was a specimen.

They must have belonged to differ-

ent races, and represent a different

line of descent.

held that they were portraits which

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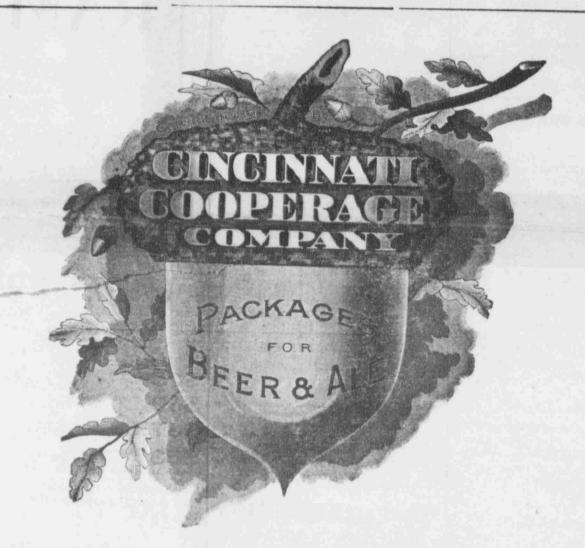
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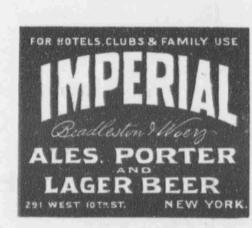
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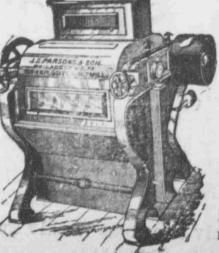
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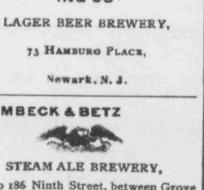
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